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BRITISH AND TORY MARAUDERS ON THE PENOBSCOT

BY

EDWARD KALLOCH GOULD

Author of "Major General Hiram G. Berry," "Colonel Mason Wheaton, Revolutionary Officer and Captain of Industry," "Storming The Heights, Maine's Embattled Farmers at Castine in the Revolution," "Revolutionary Soldiers and Sailors of Knox County, Maine, and Their Descendants."

Rockland, Maine
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EDWARD KALLOCH GOULD

BRITISH AND TORY MARAUDERS ON THE PENOBSCOT

There is a class of Americans but little known who paid the price of our liberties in suffering, privation and lingering death. These were the victims of Tory and British brutality. The story has been but half told of the devastation of the country bordering on the Penobscot Bay and River, following the occupation of Majorbagaduce, or Castine as we now call it, by the British, in the Revolution. From this base marauding parties, led by local Tory sympathizers, operated by land and sea. Human nature was the same then as now. People living in the Penobscot region could be found who would sell their souls for British gold, and give their neighbors over to the plunder of British marauding parties, for the sake of possessing what had been accumulated by thrift and hard labor.

So numerous was this Tory class that defensive measures could not be planned without immediate knowledge of them being conveyed to the British at Castine. Some of these Tories were secret spies and their treachery was never suspected by their trusting American neighbors.

There was a feeling of uneasiness among the small settlements on the Penobscot, because one could never know whether his next door neighbor was friend or foe.

The constant operation of the British marauding parties by land, and the "shaving mills," as the small boats of the British were called, by sea, from 1779 to 1783, swept American commerce from the eastern ocean and completely scattered the inhabitants of the Islands and the Main, so that some settlements were completely obliterated.

The people lived by the products of the soil and what could be caught from the sea. The parties of British and Tories burned the log houses of the settlers, stole or destroyed their boats and vessels, killed or drove off their live stock, devastated the growing crops, carried away the food products stored in cellars for winter use, imprisoned the old men and boys whom the war had left to operate the farms, as most of the men of Military age were in the Continental service.

After destroying all a family might have of habitation and means of livelihood, then the women with their numerous small children were driven into the woods to suffer and die. "War is hell," said General

Sherman. It certainly was for the loyal American living along the Penobscot during the Revolution.

Local histories have preserved meagre and isolated cases of these devastating raids. There are many incidents of this kind which have never appeared in print, and because of this the story cannot be told in all its horrid ugliness. But enough remains to give an idea of the awful price paid by our Revolutionary predecessors for American liberty.

To protect the people from this plundering, the Continental Congress, in 1780, ordered 600 men to be detached from the three eastern Brigades of the State, for eight months' service. Every soldier was ordered to march well equipped, within twenty-four hours after he was detached, or pay a fine of sixty pounds currency, which was to be applied to procure a substitute. The command of the whole eastern department between the Piscataqua and St. Croix, was given to Brigadier-General Peleg Wadsworth, with power to raise more troops if they were needed.

He was also empowered to declare and execute martial law over territory ten miles in width upon the coast east of the Kennebec, according to the rules of the American Army.

General Wadsworth was an able and distinguished officer. His assignment to this isolated command with but an inadequate force to guard the long coast line, completely buried him from ever attaining distinction in the Continental service. He was by nature a soldier. Had it been his privilege to develop his military talent as a General in the Main Army under Washington, his name would undoubtedly have shown with lustre beside Generals Lincoln, Knox, Gates and Lafayette, as one of the leading Generals of the Revolution. But the fates and his unselfish devotion to the cause of the Colonies decreed otherwise. He is best known in history as the grandfather of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the world's most talented poet.

It is the purpose of this article to bring together in a single narrative the scattered records of British and Tory marauding. Many of these incidents are contained in old and rare works long since out of print and inaccessible to the general reader. A patriotic purpose can be achieved by reproducing them here and rescuing them from oblivion.

CAMDEN

During the Revolution Camden was a scattered settlement of log houses divided into three groups. The first was at and near Megunticook Harbor, as it was then called, being now Camden Harbor. The second

group at Goose River, then the name of the present town of Rockport, while the third group was at Clam Cove, as Glen Cove in the town of Rockport was then called. As already stated all of these settlements were then within the limits of Camden.

It is difficult for one of the present day to understand the importance of the settlement at Glen Cove, or to find a reason for erecting a fortification and maintaining a garrison there. Just before the Majorbiguyduce (Castine) expedition, Major-General George Ulmer, of Duck Trap, (Lincolnville) then a Captain in the service of Massachusetts, and later a Major-General of Militia, threw up a slight timber breastwork on the summit of Pine Hill, a beautiful eminence at the northern side of Glen Cove, which commands even now a most delightful prospect of the surrounding scenery that can be obtained for many miles. It is now a part of the summer estate of Mrs. Sallie H. Henry of Philadelphia. Why this fortification should be erected at this particular place and a garrison stationed there is a Military mystery. From the light we have now of that distant time it appears to be absolutely useless as a measure of defence, as there was nothing there worth defending, and by a stretch of the most vivid imagination it could not be called a strategic place to station troops.

However, the breastwork was placed on this hill and an 18 pound cannon mounted on it. The force stationed at the Cove numbered 200 men of which Capt. (later General) Ulmer was in chief command. Among the officers were Lieut. Alexander Kelloch of Warren and Capt. John Blunt. John Marsh of Orono, Maine, was the Indian interpreter, as there was also a company of Penobscot Indians that made a part of the garrison. Men were living in 1859 who remember having seen the Indians frequently play ball near the barracks, as it was one of their favorite sports.

John Marsh's family lodged in the barracks, and William Gregory on whose land the barracks were, acted as commissary. At the same time the encampment was established at Glen Cove, Lieut. Benjamin Burton was stationed at Camden Harbor with a small force.

As soon as the American force was defeated at Castine in 1779, Capt. Brewer and others with their families from along Penobscot River, procured a passage on board a vessel to Camden, of which General Ulmer assumed command. At the same time rather than to take the British oath of allegiance, the inhabitants of Belfast to a man left their homes and came to Camden. They arrived on the morning of the 15th of August, but only about half a dozen families remained in Camden. The remainder went to Warren, Saco, Bristol, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Some of those who halted in Camden found quarters at Glen Cove at the houses of Tolman, Gregory and others. Those at Camden Harbor were taken in by Richards, while at Goose River the Thorndikes and others cared for the remainder.

The barracks at Glen Cove were half a mile from the fort. Besides the barracks which was a temporary structure more like a shed, William Gregory's barn was appropriated for the use of the soldiers, and to many of those who fled here for safety. Half of the Gregory log house was occupied by the officers, and as he soon after built another cabin down toward Chickawaukie Pond, he gave them possession of the whole house, and removed into his new one.

As the settlers of Belfast left their corn and other grain standing in their fields as they fled from the British, Peletiah Corthell was dispatched in a boat to go to Belfast and gather a load. Filling the boat with corn, he returned without molestation.

August 14, 1779, a "shaving mill" containing a crew of 12 men came to Goose River, (Rockport), in quest of the settlers' live stock. At the time they landed Robert and Paul Thorndike had gone to the mill in South Thomaston, then called Weskeag. The marauders first indicated their appearance by shooting a calf in the back yard. Mrs. Thorndike thinking one of her sons had been shot by them, seized her small son, James, then three weeks old, and arousing a daughter who was asleep, she rushed for the woods just back of the house, and there she remained secreted until morning, when with trembling step she cautiously approached her house to find that its contents were left unharmed.

On such alarms the settlers and their families fled to the woods for safety, as their resistance would be but feeble and useless against an armed foe of superior numbers.

During this period occurred a daring exploit of John Harkness of Goose River, (Rockport), who served as a Lieutenant at the battle of Lexington and Bunker Hill, and being disabled came and settled at Goose River. At this time he was unmarried and dwelt in a log cabin alone. British marauders coming ashore in quest of plunder, found their way to his cabin. Harkness being absent, they rifled his cabin of its most valuable contents, including his gun and carried them down to the barge. Leaving men to guard the boat, the rest went in search of other booty.

While thus guarding their ill-gotten gains, Harkness discovered them from the opposite side of the river, and crossing the stream, he unobservedly approached them, and coming out of the thicket by the river's side unarmed, they were not at all apprehensive of any danger from a

single man in his situation. Jumping into the barge he seized his gun when they attempted to approach to wrest it from him, but instantly cocking it, he leveled it at the head of one of the marauders and threatened them if they moved their guns, a life would pay the forfeit.

With his gun thus aimed at one of their number, he began to pace backwards on the shore until he disappeared among the woods, leaving his astonished enemies to attempt a hazardous pursuit, or content themselves with escaping the contents of his musket.

Elizabeth Ott, daughter of Peter Ott, a Revolutionary soldier, who subsequently became Harkness' wife, was not less valiant than he. At near the same time of the Harkness exploit, a "shaving mill" visited Goose River, and the plunderers went to the inn of Peter Ott, which was situated between Rockport and Glen Cove, on the spot later occupied by Jefferson Smith's house.

The marauders went into the cellar and were drawing off some liquor, when Miss Ott came down and indignantly exclaimed:

"Stop, you villains! Let that alone!"

As they took no heed of her words, she rushed forward and stayed the flow of the liquor, by placing her hand on the aperture. One of the men presented a pistol at her head, when she knocked it aside with the other hand, and persisted in protecting her father's property.

Her fearless persisting had the effect of saving what timidity would have lost.

Robert Jameson when a boy, had a schoolmate by the name of Pomeroy, who, in later years, had gone to sea with him. When the Revolutionary struggle commenced, Pomeroy, then living at Friendship, became a Tory, and knowing Jameson to be a strenuous patriot, undertook to guide a "shaving mill" to Clam Cove to depredate his property. The barge, guided by Pomeroy, reached Jameson's Point, now Bay Point, late in the afternoon, and landed a force of nineteen men near Mr. Jameson's log house, seized him as he was mowing in the field, and carried him aboard the barge. Some of the company went into his house and brought away two guns, two firkins of butter and other things of value. Another party shot his oxen and killed his pigs which they dragged to the shore, quartered without taking off the hides, and carried them on board their barge. They then told Jameson that he was free to go home.

Under those circumstances most men would have hurried away as soon as possible. Not so Jameson. His heart, which knew no fear, was burning with rage at the loss and indignity he had suffered, and with a determi-

nation to get revenge if possible. His seaman's eye had detected an American privateer in the fog near Owl's Head, and thinking that an opportunity to avenge himself was at hand, he resolutely refused to leave the barge. The privateer approached within two miles of Glen Cove, when Jameson, notwithstanding he was ordered to hold his tongue, loudly hailed it, but the increasing density of the fog prevented the privateer's attention being attracted.

The British then offered to take him with them if he would join in their predatory expedition, which offer he contemptuously rejected and said he hoped the privateer would take them that he might wreak his vengeance upon them. Deciding that he was a dangerous man to have with them, they peremptorily ordered him to go ashore which he as peremptorily refused to do. They then brought his wife aboard the barge to persuade him to go ashore peaceably, but he persistently adhered to his determination to remain aboard as long as there was a chance of the privateer returning to the place.

As night was approaching they decided to remain in Glen Cove until morning and allow their unwelcome guest to stay on board. The morning's light showed no trace of the privateer, and seeing no hope of immediate redress, Jameson strode ashore declaring as the barge sailed away, that his wrath would be forcibly visited upon the head of the base Pomeroy, when next they met.

The story is not complete without the sequel which took place a few years later after peace was declared, when Pomeroy went as pilot to Bangor on board a Waldoboro vessel commanded by Paul Jameson, Robert's brother.

On the return trip down river with a cargo of lumber, the vessel put into Glen Cove. While there Robert learned that Pomeroy was on board and told his brother, the Captain, that he proposed to have satisfaction before he left, for the loss and insults he had received.

His brother's efforts to dissuade him were of no avail. His injury had rankled in his breast too long and he would not forego his long contemplated revenge.

Taking his musket, loaded and with fixed bayonet, he went on board in the absence of the Captain, and finding Pomeroy, told him the purpose of his visit. Pomeroy in great fear begged his forgiveness, but regardless of his entreaties, Jameson pitched into him with his fists and laid him unconscious upon the deck, andwould doubtless have made an end of him but for the interference of others.

When leaving to go on shore Jameson gave his fallen enemy a thrust with his bayonet to ascertain if he were dead. He proved to be alive, however, and the Captain hearing of the trouble went on board his vessel and hurriedly sailed away.

The people of Camden held Pomeroy in so great contempt, and were so indignant at his unforgotten treachery and treason, that no notice was taken of the assault, and the matter ended.

In 1779, according to Locke in his history of Camden, an English vessel approached Megunticook Harbor, as Camden was then called, from the direction of Castine, which was then held by the British. The vessel was evidently on a marauding trip. She was seen by two residents of the Harbor, Leonard Metcalf and Andrew Wells, who undertook to prevent by strategem the landing of the enemy.

Wells took his drum to the shore and began lustily to beat the "roll call," while Metcalf in a commanding voice, proceeded to shout orders to an imaginary company of soldiers.

This action of the two patriots only resulted however in alarming the approaching British who sent on shore a larger force than they intended to dislodge the supposed company of "rebels" in the woods.

The Red Coats landed on the west shore of the harbor, near William Minot's house, and charged up the bank when they saw Metcalf and Wells and fired at them. Metcalf, loading his musket, and not paying proper heed to his steps fell over a log, when one of the Englishmen cried, "There's one of the d—— Yankees dead." Metcalf, however, was far from being dead, for rising to his feet he fired at his pursuers again and retorting, "That's a lie," disappeared into the thicket with his comrade and both hurried to Goose River (Rockport) to spread the alarm.

The marauders then turned their attention to Major Minot's house, which they burned to the ground and then visited Abraham Ogier's cabin on Ogier's Point. Mrs. Ogier being at home alone, and seeing the soldiers approaching from the direction of Minot's flaming house, took to her bed and feigned sickness.

The soldiers entered and roughly ordered her to get up and leave, as they were going to burn the house. With a feeble voice she told them it would be death for her to leave her bed and begged them not to disturb her. Believing her story they spared the house and proceeded back to the harbor where they burned several houses, among them that of James Richards. They also burned several hay stacks and destroyed Wm. Minot's mill. They also set fire to his grist mill. Belfast had previously been

evacuated and many of its settlers had come to Camden and stored their goods in this grist mill. When the British set it on fire, a cripple from Belfast by the name of Dow, anxious to save his own as well as his neighbor's property, extinguished the flames. Again it was fired and again Dow put it out and persisted in so doing notwithstanding he was roughly handled and threatened with personal violence by the soldiers.

At last they relinquished their attempt saying, "Well, we'll let it alone, as the d—— rebels will die if we burn their mill." So the valor of the cripple saved the mill. In the meantime, Mrs. Richards and her children and the other residents of the Harbor had fled to the woods, and with sorrowful hearts saw arising the smoke of their blazing homes. At last the invaders started to return to their boats, and on their way, they were pursued and hastened by the bullets of the ambushed settlers.

It seemed to be the part of the Tories to lead these plunderers against their fellow-countrymen, and in the case just recited the pilot was a Tory by the name of John Long. After the war closed Long one day happened to be at Peter Ott's tavern at Goose River (Rockport), when that Tory-hater, the doughty Robert Jameson, rode up and entered the tavern. As the weather was cold he told Ott to build up a big fire, as he wished to warm himself, at the same time remarking that there was one man present whom he was going to put on to burn. Ott supposing Jameson was joking, piled on the wood, and in a few minutes had a roaring fire. Jameson, who was a giant in strength, then seized Long and threw him on the fire as if he were a stick of cord wood. Before he could get out of the fire place his face and hands were badly blistered, his clothing burned and his hair singed. "There," exclaimed Jameson, "burn the Harbor Village again, will you?"

Neither was this incident the last trouble Long had on account of his dastardly conduct, for on one occasion more than twenty years after the burning of the village Long came to Camden, and according to an old tale, met Leonard Metcalf on the street, and recognizing him, extended his hand to shake hands with him. Metcalf contemptuously ignored his proffered hand, saying, "Let every dog shake his own paw," and pointing in the direction of the destroyed saw-mill, exclaimed, "There, look at that mill, sir!" Long turned his head to look, when Metcalf struck him a stunning blow in the face, which felled him to the ground, and then finished paying the old score by giving him a severe pommeling. Col. Erastus Foot hearing the noise caused by the quarrel, rushed out of his office to learn its cause and when Metcalf explained he laughed heartily, declared the retaliation to be just and handing Metcalf a dollar told him to go and drink his health.

On another occasion at about the same time, (1779), the active and redoubtable Metcalf had better fortune in repelling the invader. An American coasting vessel being pursued by a British barge, ran ashore at Ogier's Cove. Metcalf who lived in that vicinity, (where by the way one of his descendants recently lived), gave the alarm and roused the neighboring settlers, who, with the vessel's crew, secreted themselves near the shore and fired a volley into the approaching enemy. Metcalf would then run out from the woods and fire at them, where he would return, load and repeat the act. The British kept at bay by the settlers' guns, at last rowed away. The next day the settlers mustered their neighbors at Goose River, (Rockport), and stood ready to repel the enemy, should they attempt to take the prize at high tide. The English, however, did not deem it best to return, and on the next tide the vessel sailed for her destination.

It is said that at this time the Scottish commander at Castine, General Campbell, sent his son in an armed vessel to burn the settlement at Camden, but finding only the simple and unpretentious log huts of the few settlers who made their homes at Camden Harbor, and knowing the temper of their occupants, he failed to do so, excusing himself to his father by declaring that he "wouldn't risk the life of a man for all the pig styes there were in the place." Thus the sparks of chivalry sometimes burned even in the breasts of British Naval commanders.

The following incident occurred at Clam Cove (Glen Cove) about this time.

A kind of a tavern in a log house was kept by William Gregory at this place. He is described as a jolly, light-minded man, much fonder of a merry joke than a political discussion. One night there was a knock at the door of his humble abode. On opening the door, a file of British soldiers rushed in, all, excepting the officer in command speaking a foreign tongue, probably the brogue of Scotland. They enquired if two deserters, whom they described, were in his house; and being satisfied that they were not, compelled Gregory to guide them to the ferry at Thomaston. On their arrival the boats were all on the other side, but after a little talk not understood by Gregory, one disrobed, and notwithstanding the coldness of the weather, plunged into the waters, swam to the other side, and soon returned with a boat. Leaving the swimmer to dress and warm himself as best he could, the party went over to the house of one Watson, found the deserters, returned to Clam Cove and embarked before dawn.

ROCKLAND

One Captain Pomeroy, a native of Medumcook, (Friendship), in a British privateer Brig, on one occasion landed with 19 men at Jameson's Point, now Bay Point, Rockland Harbor, took Robert Jameson, whom they found mowing in a field, prisoner on board his vessel, and on account of his unyielding disposition, put him in irons. His men then drove up Jameson's cattle and killed a good yoke of oxen for beef and three fat hogs, which without stopping to dress them, they hurried on board the vessel, together with three firkins of butter and two guns which they forcibly took from his log house.

Jameson being naturally of a violent temper, became so enraged at this conduct of an old schoolmate who had been brought up in the same neighborhood with himself, that he made use of all the abusive language and opprobrious epithets his tongue could command, and, in reply to the threats of Pomeroy, who brandished his sword over him, would bare his breast and dare him to injure him. Finding that neither threats nor force would silence him, Pomeroy was glad to put him ashore and get rid of him. Jameson departed with a threat that, if ever fortune put it in his power, no distance of time or regard to consequences should prevent his taking revenge.

Sometime after this Capt. Pomeroy having taken a prize, ran in for a harbor at Owl's Head and anchored in a foggy night. Capt. George Little who commanded an American armed vessel, ran into the same harbor and anchored a short distance from him. In the morning when the fog cleared away, the two hostile flags were flying almost within pistol shot of each other. Pomeroy lost no time in getting under way with his prize and escaping from so formidable an opponent. Little was equally alert and soon sailed in pursuit.

Pomeroy having the start and his vessel being a fast sailer gained upon his adversary and arrived safe at Castine. But his prize sailing more slowly, Little manoeuvered and cut her off while concealed from the view of Pomeroy by an Island. This prize was then immediately manned by Little, and with a crew of picked men, followed Pomeroy as if nothing had happened. It was night before they arrived in Castine harbor. Little stood by the late prize-master and with a pistol at his breast compelled him to give such answers when hailed by Pomeroy as put him at ease and induced him to order her alongside.

No sooner was this done than Little, with a stamp of his foot, brought his crew upon deck, and springing on board the Brig, exclaimed with an oath, "This is a State's vessel, and whoever stirs or speaks is a dead man."

Pomeroy had just time to slip over the bow into the boat and make for shore, while Little cutting the cables hoisted sail and left the harbor with both vessels.

The alarm was spread and a few guns fired from the fort, but in the darkness of the night they had no effect.

Pomeroy after the war was a sailor on Paul Thorndike's vessel, a brother of Robert Thorndike whom he had despoiled during the war. Robert boarded the vessel and beat Pomeroy into insensibility. Such are the passions engendered by war.

THOMASTON

To draw the line more distinctly between friends and foes, General Wadsworth, who was the American officer in command in this section, had issued a proclamation strictly prohibiting all intercourse with the enemy. But illicit traffic and predatory incursions being continued, in one of which Capt. Soule of Waldoboro was murdered, his wife wounded and house plundered, another proclamation was issued threatening death upon any one convicted of aiding or secreting the enemy. Subsequently to this, Jeremiah Brawn of Damariscotta was taken up, charged with piloting a party of British through the back country for the purpose of pillaging. He was tried by Court Martial at General Wadsworth's headquarters in Thomaston, condemned and sentenced to be hung. On August 25th, 1780, he was hung on a gallows on Limestone Hill in that town. Another offender, Nathaniel Palmer, was also condemned, but made his escape from the barn in which he was confined at General Wadsworth's headquarters.

The capture of Colonel Wheaton's vessel by a "shaving mill" while the Colonel was on board, and her gallant recapture by a detachment of Militia from New Harbor, has already been narrated in my "Colonel Mason Wheaton, Revolutionary Officer and Captain of Industry," and need not to be repeated here.

This same vessel was employed in carrying lime from the St. Georges River to Boston and was commanded by Capt. Jordan. Sometime after the incident related above, she dropped down the St. Georges to Maple Juice Cove, and there lay loaded with lime, waiting for an opportunity to sail for Boston. While lying there, the Captain and crew being at their homes, Waldo Dicke of Warren, who had previously commanded her, and who had become a notorious Tory, assisted by some other Tories or refugees, came in the night, took the vessel, and departed with it for

Castine. Although a party started immediately in pursuit, Dicke by his superior knowledge of the coast, was enabled to get the vessel concealed in some secluded cove and thus escape discovery, and, when the pursuit was over, succeeded in reaching the British port. There it is said that his account of the exploit was not very graciously received by the British commander, General Campbell, and Colonel Wheaton was informed that he could have his vessel at a very moderate ransom; but both principle and feeling were with him too strong to allow him to treat in any way with the enemy.

Since the taking of Wheaton's sloop, not a single vessel remained sailing from Georges River. Sailors living in this vicinity were consequently driven to other means of support, or to ship in other places.

While the war continued, parties occasionally landed from privateers at various points along the coast of the Penobscot for provisions, money or other plunder. Such a marauding party destroyed the salt works of Mr. Heard of Ash Point, South Thomaston. On another occasion a marauding party entered his house; inquired where the men were; would not believe the answer; said they must be hidden, or had fled with the money; threatened the women; and set fire to the house. But obtaining no information or seeing no prospect of plunder, they finally put out the fire and departed.

ST. GEORGE

Captain Samuel Watts of St. George, being engaged in lumber and the West India trade, brought back the returns of his cargoes in specie, which he kept in his house in bags. A "shaving mill" anchored near his house one evening. The children were in bed but Watts and his wife were about the house when the marauders entered and proceeded to ransack the premises, taking everything of value, including bedding except the one on which the children lay sleeping. As they began to cry on awakening, the commander ordered his men to desist. He then demanded money, but none being produced or acknowledged in possession, he ordered his men to take Watts on board the "shaving mill" as a prisoner. The first man who laid his hand on Captain Watts was knocked into the fire place by his vigorous fist. He was finally overcome and taken to Castine, where after four weeks confinement he was released on parole or exchange of prisoner.

Such predatory attempts were now so common that most persons who were fortunate enough to have silver money, spoons, spare linen or other treasures, kept them concealed in the woods, swamps, hay-mows, or other hiding places.

CAPTURE OF GENERAL WADSWORTH

In 1780, General Peleg Wadsworth, having the preceding December dismissed the troops which he had called out in the spring, was left at his headquarters in Thomaston with a small body guard of six men only.

The British commander at Castine, learning of his defenseless condition, sent Lieut. Stockton with twenty-five men and the notorious Tory. Waldo Dicke of Warren, as a pilot to capture him. They arrived and anchored in Wessaweskeag River, Feb. 18, and at eleven o'clock at night they started on their errand, the distance to Wadsworth's quarters being about four miles.

The ground was covered with snow and the weather was severely cold. The General was sleeping in fancied security at his headquarters on Wadsworth Street in Thomaston, where he was living with his family, consisting of his wife, a son five years old, a daughter younger, and Miss Fenno, a particular friend of Mrs. Wadsworth. At this time the General and his wife were sleeping in the front room, and their two children and Miss Fenno were in the bedroom adjoining. The kitchen was used as a guard-room by the six Militia men on duty as sentinels.

The British detachment approached the house unseen until they were on the sentinel at the kitchen door, who gave the regulation challenge of "Who goes there?" and retreated through the door into the kitchen.

The British then assaulted the house with unnecessary violence and with a reckless disregard of the lives and safety of the non-combatant women and children. With their overwhelming numbers and surprise attack, the house should have been entered and the General seized before he could leave his bed, without the firing of a shot.

Apparently that was not the British way. The sentry's retreat into the kitchen was followed by a volley fired into that part of the house. At the same moment others discharged their guns into the sleeping apartment of the General and his wife, and blew in a part of the window; and a third party forced their way to the room occupied by Miss Fenno and the children. Thus possession was taken of the whole house, except the General's room, which was strongly barred.

Thus suddenly awakened, General Wadsworth sprang to the defence of his home and loved ones and his own life, which from the violence and nature of the attack he had every reason to believe that the British intended to take. In the meantime Mrs. Wadsworth had fled to Miss Fenno's room to dress and protect her little ones from violence.

Finding only women and children in Miss Fenno's room, the British officer ordered the firing there to cease. But the General was putting up a stubborn resistance, using to advantage a brace of pistols, a fusee and a blunderbuss with which he drove his assailants away entirely from his windows and the kitchen door. Twice he ineffectually snapped his blunderbuss at others, whom he heard in the front entry, where they retreated. He next seized his fusee and fired upon those who were breaking through one of his windows, and they also withdrew. The attack was then renewed through the entry which he bravely resisted with his bayonet.

But the appearance of his under linen betraying him to the soldiers in the kitchen, they instantly fired at him, and one of their bullets went through his left arm. He then surrendered. Still the British soldiers continued to fire until he again called to them and asked them to desist. They rushed into the room, and a wounded British soldier aimed his musket at the General's breast, but the British officer knocked the gun aside and saved his life. Five or six men besides the General were wounded, the doors and windows were in ruins, one of the rooms was on fire; the floors were covered with blood, and on one of them lay weltering an old soldier, who begged that an end might be put to his misery. But the children and women were unhurt; indeed the boy is said to have slept through all the turmoil.

Wadsworth's captors helped him to dress with all expedition except his coat, which could not be drawn over his wounded arm. In spite of the agitation and alarm that must have possessed the women because of the startling experiences of this night attack, Mrs. Wadsworth and Miss Fenno sought to administer to the wants of the gallant General by hastily tying a handkerchief on his arm, and throwing a blanket over his shoulders.

This was all they were allowed to do, as his captors then precipitately hurried him into the bleak and wintery night, and he started on the four mile journey to the British vessel on foot. Two wounded British soldiers were placed on the General's horse taken from the barn, while a wounded American soldier trudged on foot with his General, both of whom were assisted by their captors.

At the end of a mile, one of the wounded British soldiers was left at the house of Dr. David Fales, who received the apparently dying man, extracted the ball from his thigh, kept and took care of him till his recovery. and it is said received adequate compensation. The General was placed on the horse behind the other wounded British soldier, and when

he had come to the place where the schooner lay, which was a privateer, the master when he found some of his men wounded, cursed General Wadsworth and ordered him to help launch a boat. Lieut. Stockton coming up at this time reprimanded the master and said he would report his conduct to the British commander at Castine.

The master became deferential after this reprimand, and the General was assigned a good berth in the cabin and received such comforts as the vessel afforded.

When the party landed at Castine the next day, the shores were thronged with spectators, anxious to see the man who through the preceding year had disappointed many of the enemy's designs in this quarter.

General Wadsworth was conducted to the Fort where he was graciously received by General Campbell, the British Commander, who assigned him a room in the officers' barracks and had him dine at his table and showed him other civilities. A surgeon was sent to dress his wound, found the joint of the prisoner's elbow uninjured, and pronounced the wound free from danger if an artery were not touched; a fact indeterminable till a suppuration should take place.

Here General Wadsworth remained until June 18, 1781, when with Major Benjamin Burton, the night being dark and stormy, they made an escape from the fort and safely reached home. Wadsworth Cove at Castine is named for the General who waded through its waters in making his dash for freedom.

Since the withdrawal of the forces under General Wadsworth, depredations by the refugees upon their own countrymen and neighbors increased along the Penobscot Bay and River. The British continuing to occupy Castine encouraged these depredations. Injuries on each side were complained of and retaliated. Brother was arrayed against brother, neighbor against neighbor. Tories openly engaged in predatory exploits and were known to be frequently on shore and lurking in concealment among those who favored the royal cause, so that no one knew when his family and property were free from danger.

A small schooner from South Thomaston, ladened with salt, was sent to Boston under command of Captain D. Crouch. On her return with a scanty store of provisions for the owners and other necessaries for the support of their families, she was captured off Monhegan by the two notorious Tories, John Long and Benjamin Bradford, accompanied by some Scotchmen from Castine in a "shaving mill."

Thus the owners not only lost the proceeds of their hard labor, but had the mortification of finding the cargo on which they depended for their winter stores, brought to their own river and delivered over in payment of a debt, which one of the captors owed to a wealthy neighbor and townsman.

BELFAST

Belfast was just across Penobscot Bay from Castine, and after the American defeat there in 1779, immediate preparations for departure were made. Some of the inhabitants hastily concealed their furniture in the woods, and the wells were used as a hiding place for pewter platters and other domestic articles. The residents there numbered 109, comprised in eighteen families.

On the night after the destruction of the American fleet, all embarked, and, following the shore, proceeded down the Bay without interference from the British. Just before the Castine affair, Capt. George Ulmer had erected a breastwork and established a garrison at Clam Cove, Rockport, as has already been related. After the defeat, this was looked upon by the friends of freedom on the Penobscot as the nearest place of refuge. Hither the exiles from Belfast directed their course, arriving in safety the 15th of August. The larger portion was soon dispersed to more distant points. About half a dozen families remained at Camden.

Soon after the evacuation of Belfast, a party of twelve men commanded by Sergeant David Jenks, ventured from Camden to drive away some of the cattle that had been abandoned, and which Richard Stimson, who had been left behind, probably with his father Ephraim Stimson, at Mount Ephraim, was to assist in finding. They made the deserted house of Samuel Houston in the eastern part of the town their place of rendezvous, and passed the night there.

In the morning Jenks went to the shore to shoot wild fowl, and a dense fog prevailing, he was surprised and taken prisoner by three men named Armstrong, Cookson and Turner who had landed from Castine on an expedition of plunder. The better to deceive the men remaining at the house they marched Jenks towards it with his musket on his shoulder.

Supposing them to be friends, Stimson and others came out to meet them. A struggle at once ensued. Stimson, although a small sized man, was brave and strong. Being summoned by Armstrong to surrender, he dropped his musket, and seizing Armstrong by the legs threw him upon the ground, calling to Jenks, "Blow him through." The latter immediately fired, the bullet going through Armstrong's brain, producing instant

death. In the affray, Cookson stabbed Stimson in the arm with a bayonet. As soon as Jenks discharged his musket, he turned and struck Cookson down; but the latter recovered himself, and with Turner escaped to their boat.

The thick fog rendered pursuit useless. Stimson always imputed cowardice to the remainder of the party, as from the house they witnessed the affair and rendered no assistance. A rough box was made, and the body of Armstrong interred in a spot near the scene of the tragedy, which is still pointed out. The next day a party from Castine conveyed the remains to that place for more decent burial, and burned the house and barn of Houston. In the latter, which was a new barn, quite an amount of grain and furniture belonging to the neighbors had been stored. It was all consumed.

A romantic incident in this connection has been handed down. A beautiful sister of Stimson was compelled by the British to hold a lantern at the grave, it being dark before the disinterment was completed. Attracted by her appearance, one Turner, who was of the number, continued the acquaintance, and after the war closed married her.

The few families who returned to Belfast in 1780 found nearly everything in ruins. Their cattle were gone, fences had been torn down, the houses left standing were stripped of windows and doors, and in several instances the habitations had been entirely destroyed. The concealed articles of household furniture remained undisturbed.

DAMAGES AT CAMDEN IN 1779

After the occupation of Castine by the British in 1779, Camden seemed to be a frequent point of attack of marauding parties. Barack Bucklin, David Nutt and Abraham Jones present in behalf of the inhabitants to the General Court a result of their investigations of the damages by these marauders. This is what they report:

On the 15th of March, 1779, there came into Megunticook Harbor at Camden, an enemy's armed schooner from Liverpool and drove the inhabitants from their houses by which means Abraham Ogier lost a great quantity of silver plate and goods to the value of one hundred and thirty pounds.

About the 11th of October following, the enemy came from Bagaduce, (Castine), before sunrise and landed about 30 men who went to the house of James Richards and set it on fire together with a stack of hay. His

house and furniture is valued at eighty-seven pounds. Twenty bushels of corn and three tons of hay likewise destroyed are valued at ten pounds, making Mr. Richards' total loss ninety-seven pounds.

This same party of marauders burned the saw mill and dwelling of Stephen Minot of Boston. The saw mill was valued at one hundred and twenty pounds, making Mr. Minot's total loss three hundred and twenty pounds. Two guns were fired as a signal from the British vessel and the marauders returned on board.

On the 8th of September, 1780, there came a party of the enemy from Bagaduce, (Castine), by land and drove away and carried to Castine eight milch cows, one ox, two steers, all valued at forty-five pounds. These cattle were the property of Nathan Knight.

General Wadsworth in a letter to the Council dated at headquarters, Falmouth, 14 July, 1780, states that "an express from Camden reports a general uneasiness among the troops at that place, and that they had slung their packs with a determination to leave their post, and it was with difficulty they were restrained for the present. The cause of their uneasiness was the want of bread, of which they are destitute and of which they have had but little during the campaign." While General Wadsworth was with them, faring as they did themselves, and by other means endeavoring to keep up their spirits and make them contented, the troops were subordimate and he left them apparently willing to submit to the hardships. As soon as his duties will allow him, General Wadsworth promises to return to Camden and use his influence to promote discipline. He adds, "should the troops at Camden leave their post through discontent, or be driven from it through weakness, the consequence would be pernicious to the State, but I do not admit even the idea. There is plenty of bread in the country, and a supply might be had even in this part of it, if there was money, or measures adopted to procure it. I am persuaded that a number of towns, or individuals in towns, would turn out a supply to my order, were I empowered to draw upon the treasury for a discount of taxes."

Later General Wadsworth obtained from the town of New Gloucester ninety bushels of Indian corn for the troops at Camden, at $65 per bushel, for which the town was to receive 873 pounds discount of taxes.

Continuing under date of July 24, 1780, General Wadsworth reports to the Council that he has received a line from Camden, inclosing a copy of a proclamation from the British Commander at Castine, requiring all the male inhabitants on the Penobscot and east rivers above 14 years old to appear at Fort George by July 20th. "The intent of this," states General Wadsworth, "I suppose to be to oblige the inhabitants to take an

active decisive part. To prevent this a detachment has been made from Camden up Penobscot River. This obliges me to order one company from this post (Portland) to Camden where I shall repair myself immediately. I propose to set off tomorrow morning."

CAPTURE OF GENERAL CUSHING

Brigadier-General Charles Cushing of Pownalborough (Dresden) was the commander of the Massachusetts Militia of Lincoln County. His capture by the British is thus reported by General Wadsworth, who himself later was a similar victim of British aggression. He states: "On the night of the 15th instant (Feb. 15, 1780) Brigadier Cushing was kidnapped, taken from his house about 12 o'clock at night and carried on board a boat in Kennebec River. He was carried off by six armed men unknown. This is the last we know of him. He is supposed to be carried to Bigwaduce (Castine)." *

On July 24, 1780, General Wadsworth sends to Boston thirty prisoners, part of whom were taken by the troops at Camden and part by the ship "Protector." "I asked that these prisoners when exchanged might be sent southward, as it will be in their power to do much mischief on their return east."

On August 1, 1780, General Wadsworth reports his force at Thomaston to consist of one captain, two subalterns, one surgeon, four sergeants, two musicians, forty privates fit for duty, two sick, two on command and three on furlough, total forty-seven.

At Camden there is one 2d Major, six captains, ten subalterns, twenty-one sergeants, seven musicians, fifty-seven privates, with thirteen sick present, four absent, and one hundred seventeen men "on command," and ten on furlough, total, two hundred and one.

From these garrisons there were absent "on command," at Penobscot River and Sound in whale boats, one Major, two Captains, three subalterns, five Sergeants and one hundred and nineteen privates. As a guard at the mouth of the St. Georges River there was one sergeant and twelve men.

TROOPS AT CAMDEN

In a report to the Massachusetts Council by Major William Lithgow, dated Georgetown, Sept. 13, 1779, he states, that of troops called into service from Brigadier General Cushing's Brigade "30 men are to form a

guard at Townsend (Boothbay Harbor) and the remainder of the detachment to be posted at Camden, from whence it is proposed to harass the enemy by frequent excursions up the bay, and prevent as much as possible the depredations of their scouting parties. For this purpose I beg leave to suggest to Your Honor that in my opinion it will be necessary to have a number of whale boats properly equipped, which will very much facilitate our approaches towards the enemy, and as their motions are much more rapid than any barge, they will secure us an easy retreat in case of a pursuit, and should it be necessary to reinforce any distant post, the boats will form a quick and easy conveyance for the troops, and prevent the delay and fatigue inseparable from a long and tedious march through the woods. As this service from the nature of the country must necessarily be attended with great fatigue, I apprehend it would have a happy influence on the conduct of the detachment and materially promote the end of their appointment should they be allowed a moderate quantity of rum, without which no exertions will be found sufficient to keep the men up to a cheerful and spirited performance of their duty. A report at this moment prevails here that the enemy are plundering Belfast and Camden, and that General Wadsworth, finding himself unable to oppose their savages, has written to General Lovell for a reinforcement."

Waterman Thomas was paid by the General Court 16,547 pounds for furnishing supplies in 1779 for the troops at Camden from June 26, to July 26. Some of the items included bread, beef, peas, coffee, molasses, rum, soap, candles, milk and salt.

Capt. John Blunt throws light on the situation in a letter to the Council dated Camden, Oct. 16, 1779, in which he states "That Major Lithgow's absence from this post up Penobscot River, makes it my duty to inform you of the arrival of a number of the enemy's shipping in this bay and now on their way to Majorbigwaduce (Castine). They appear to consist of one large ship supposed to be a transport of troops, a frigate of about 32 guns and a number of tenders. The principal officers at Bagaduce have given out they would pay us a visit at this post very soon, but with the troops I have here, which consist of 60 men, and the assistance of the inhabitants, I am determined to maintain the ground if possible."

The following incident seems to have escaped the local historians, or it appears to be so discreditable an affair for the Americans that they did not choose to record it.

Lieut. Jeremiah Colburn was left in command of the troops and ordnance stores at Camden. His force was attacked on the 24th of April, 1780, by a British detachment from Castine, consisting of five officers and seventy-five men, guided by two refugees. So far as the record discloses,

Colburn and his sixty men, without the firing of a shot, allowed the British to take possession of the fortifications and stores at Camden, disarm the inhabitants and drive them off. Lieut. Colburn and his family were made prisoners, and all his furniture and possessions, including four whale boats, were taken by the enemy.

The British also burned a flat-bottomed boat, the breastworks and platforms of the fortifications, and did much other damage. They then carried Lieut. Colburn as a prisoner to Castine, where he was paroled and sent to Boston to await exchange. Here he became destitute and appealed to the General Court for relief, was granted part payment of wages due him and was supplied with one fire-arm and a hanger to replace in part the equipment lost at his capture.

Having intelligence that two armed schooners from Castine had gone up the Penobscot River to get cannon from the wrecked American vessels to complete several vessels that were being fitted out, General Wadsworth dispatched a party of forty-six men from Camden in five whale boats under Capt. John Blunt to surprise and capture them. Just as they had finished what they were undertaking to do and were making sail to get down the river, Capt. Blunt appeared on the scene with his whale boats. The vessels struck but the crews ran them on shore and most of them escaped, except twelve, among whom was Captain Nathan Gardner, formerly of Kennebunk and now the surgeon of the British sloop Albany.

The captured vessels had a number of cannon in their holds, with the greater part of Colonel Brewer's house, which they had taken down. One of the captured schooners was about fifty tons, mounting four guns on carriages and a number of swivels. The other was about 30 tons, completely equipped with cannon and swivels, and was a very fine cruiser. In the attack of Captain Blunt's men on the vessels, the enemy lost one man drowned and one wounded, while none of the Americans were killed or wounded.

*** The ancient name of Castine has various forms of spelling. It appears as Majorbiguyduce, Majorbagaduce, Majibigwaduce, Bigaduce, and Bagaduce, all derived from the Indian name, Matchebiguatus, meaning "At a place where there is no safe harbor."**

GLEN COVE

Captain Blunt had no sooner brought his prizes in at Glen Cove (Rockport) than the whole naval force at Castine appeared in pursuit,

and as they approached they appeared to have troops and boats for landing. The neighboring Militia were called for, turned out readily and succeeded in hauling up the largest captured schooner and landed her cannon on the shore. The small schooner was sent out to sea and made her escape, while the enemy stood into the opposite side of the Cove. The British vessels after plying across the Cove for about three hours and finding preparations made to give them a good reception should they attack, declined to attack and quietly steered up the bay from whence they came.

After their departure the cannon were again put on board the prize and she was sent around to the St. Georges River (Thomaston), for greater safety. Capt. Blunt in effecting this capture without the loss of a man received the well merited approbation of his superiors.

ISLANDS AND PENOBSCOT RIVER

The people upon the Islands and banks of the Penobscot River, after the British had established themselves at Castine, suffered from their soldiery great insults and injuries; though the inhabitants had the promise of the British General that they would receive good treatment if they would continue quiet at home. After the American defeat at Castine, a British party visited Bucksport, burnt the dwelling house of Jonathan Buck, his saw mill, vessel and two barns, also four or five of his neighbors' habitations, and took off much plunder.

General MacLean himself was a man of noble spirit. He gave to the settlers who visited him the fullest assurances of safety, if their conduct was neutral. He even permitted a cartel to take home the wounded men of the Castine expedition who were scattered in different plantations on the Penobscot River. Capt. Mowatt, the destroyer of Falmouth, now Portland, was a different character. He proceeded up the Penobscot and threatened to run Captain John Brewer through with his sword, because he carried away in the cartel Capt. Ross, who had commanded one of our armed vessels in the expedition against Castine.

Mr. Brewer and Mr. Crosby, on the west side of the Penobscot and others, procured a passage for their families and effects on board of a vessel to Camden, under Capt. George Ulmer, then in the river, who was also the commander at that place. They drove their cattle to Camden through the woods.

At one time a plundering party from the British camp at Castine visited the dwelling house of John Gilkey upon Long Island (Islesboro) in his absence, and driving his five cows to the shore, shot them all. His wife

begged them to spare one for the sake of the children, and one it is true was spared, but it was left dead. Gilkey then removed to Cape Cod, but returning before the war closed, he was taken from his house by another party, and confined in the fort at Castine for a year. His house was plundered of its contents by the crew of a "shaving mill," and his family left in a most wretched condition. Shubael Williams on a neighboring Island afforded a visiting soldier some service or relief, for which he was falsely charged with encouraging him to desert, and carried before a court martial at Castine and sentenced to be whipped 500 lashes.

The wretched condition and local misfortunes of the settlers were greatly aggravated by the Tories. These Tories had removed from Massachusetts into Lincoln County for the sake of being in the vicinity of their British friends at Castine, and were either acting as spies and informers against the inhabitants, or encouraging them to a treacherous intercourse with the enemy. Never, even in the Indian wars, had this eastern country been infested with any worse than her present enemies. They were vile mercenaries, renegade and revengeful Tories, and free-booters, whose business it was to deal in blood, treachery and plunder.

MAJOR LITHGOW'S REPORT

Major William Lithgow, Jun., in a report dated "Sandy Point on Penobscot River, Oct. 15, 1779," gives a graphic account of the state of affairs on Penobscot River and Bay and the Islands. He says:

"As my present situation obliges me to be a witness to the distress of the people on this (Penobscot) River, I should not only be guilty of an abuse of the confidence reposed in me by the Honorable Council, but also callous to the cries of the miserable, were I to delay a single moment to lay before them the peculiarly calamitous circumstances of the wretched inhabitants.

"Some weeks since General MacLean issued an order requiring one-half of the inhabitants to go to Magebigwaduce (Castine) and labor on the fortifications erecting there, who were to be relieved by the other half when the General thought proper, who threatened in case of disobedience to desolate the settlements on the river and the adjacent Islands, and treat the persons of the inhabitants as rebels.

"The people on the Island, exposed by this situation and unable to resist, pretty generally complied with the mandate and went in to work, notwithstanding which, the humane MacLean last week ordered a party in a number of small transports, convoyed by the Ship Nautilus, to land on Fox Islands (North Haven and Vinalhaven) where I believe they have

plundered all the cattle (except such as belonged to a few Tories who have gone within their lines) and burned some houses and barns.

"But the inhabitants on the River (Penobscot) encouraged by our appearance at Camden and disgusted at the perfidy of the British General, as well as the repeated insults offered them by the troops under his command, determined to sacrifice all their interests rather than comply with the General's order, and in the meantime made application to me for assistance in getting off their families and effects, as they seem generally to think they can no longer continue on their farms without having a body of men stationed among them for their protection.

"In consequence of their application, I left Camden last Sunday night with a party of 500 men, being all that could be spared from that post, and arrived at this place on Monday evening. The day following I took a small party and went farther up the River (Penobscot) accompanied by Major Murch, a volunteer, in quest of a small party who had marched through the woods from Kennebec.

"Towards evening a party of about 90 regulars and Tories landed on this point (Sandy Point) which is quite clear of woods, under the fire of an armed vessel, destroyed two old whale boats of ours that lay at the landing, burned one house which stood near the shore, and endeavored to destroy the remainder of the houses to the number of four or five, but were repulsed in the attempt with the loss of three killed and seven badly wounded. Henry Goldthwait a son of the Colonel's we are informed is among the latter.

"I have now 70 men at this place but find it impracticable to get off the inhabitants for want of boats, as there is scarce one left on the river. All that can be done now is to protect the inhabitants as well as we can in securing their crops, which are very considerable, until I receive some Order of Council respecting them, which (for the sake of the poor distressed people) I beg may not be delayed, as they will be entirely exposed to the fury of the enemy after we leave this river, which will be the first of November, being the expiration of the term for which the men were detached.

"I am persuaded the Honorable Council will think it necessary either to remove the families with their effects, or immediately order a sufficient guard on the river to protect them during the winter. Should their removal be thought eligible I should think it best to send a number of transports, convoyed by a sufficient armed force, as it is in the enemy's power to prevent the passing of boats. Perhaps half a dozen wood sloops might serve to remove the whole (except the cattle which may be driven

by land without being a public burden), but should it be thought more expedient a body of troops could be posted here during the winter. I imagine 200 would be little enough to guard this river and Camden, which places are at any season accessible to the enemy's shipping. In the latter case it will be necessary to order barracks built to shelter the men, and a quantity of bread sent down. As for beef I believe enough may be got here.

"Many persons with large families of helpless children have already fled to their neighbors of Camden, St. George etc., with scarce property enough to support them a single day; many more have been obliged to take shelter in the woods. Some wish to continue here provided they can have protection, and others incline to go to their friends in various parts of the country at all events.

"The enemy's naval strength at present consists of two ships—the Nautilus of 14 guns and the Albany of 16 or 14 guns, and an armed sloop and schooner. I shall endeavor to employ the small remainder of my time here in annoying the neighborhood of the enemy as much as I can by scouting parties. Yesterday I sent a small party near Magebigwaduce to drive off the cattle and destroy some hay which is like to fall into the enemy's hands, after removing the families who wish to come away, and propose very soon to take possession of a field of Indian corn belonging to Col. Goldthwait, said to contain 50 or 60 bushels which lies between us and the enemy."

In consequence of a request sent in from Capt. Philip M. Ulmer, who with a party of sixteen men, was scouting along the Penobscot River, Brigadier-General Charles Cushing of Pownalborough ordered a company to march from Fort Halifax on the Kennebec to the Penobscot to protect the inhabitants. Major Lithgow was also directed to send a company from Camden to cooperate with the troops ordered to that quarter.

General Cushing reports to the Massachusetts authorities that the inhabitants on the Penobscot are willing to defend themselves, notwithstanding the oaths of allegiance to the British crown that the British commander at Castine had exacted of them, provided they can have assistance. "And if no assistance could be afforded they would choose to remove from thence if they could get off, rather than be subject to the Britons. Their situation is truly distressing, between Britons and Tories they are subject to daily plunder and know not which way to fly for shelter, and if proper measures are not taken to keep up constant guards the inhabitants this way may be, by the incursions of the enemy rendered in like manner miserable."

Barracks must be provided at Camden, the General urges, before the cold weather comes on, as the greatest number of troops may be stationed

there. Indeed on the arrival of the British at Castine about 300 men had been raised and stationed at Camden.

On October 27, 1779, the Council ordered Major Lithgow to raise 200 men to be stationed at Camden for the defense of adjacent territory and he was ordered to take command of this force when raised.

Capt. Philip M. Ulmer who had been scouting in the Penobscot region, writes to General Cushing under date of October 28, 1779, that the inhabitants appear to be friendly to the American cause but are in a most deplorable condition. They are ordered by General MacLean to repair immediately to Castine to work on the fortifications being erected by the British at that place. He states that General MacLean is determined to burn and destroy their property, and treat the inhabitants as rebels. "It is impossible for so many families to flee through the woods and there is no transportation by water available. But they have determined to remain on their farms if they can have a guard sufficient to protect them." Capt. Ulmer urges that either boats be sent to remove the inhabitants, or 200 or 300 troops be stationed on the Penobscot to guard them against the plundering raids of the British.

On Nov. 3, 1779, the Council directed the Board of War to take suitable measures for securing such ordnance, stores, rigging and other property as belonged to the fleet which was destroyed in the Penobscot River when the American force was defeated at Castine. Major Lithgow, or the commanding officer of the troops stationed at Camden, was directed to furnish with guards the persons thus employed.

VINALHAVEN

This town was devastated and swept clear of its inhabitants by the British forces at Castine. Some of the men were taken to the latter place and compelled to work on the fortifications, much against their will. It is in evidence that the British created a breastwork at North Haven, but whether any part of it remains is unknown. Capt. Eleazer Crabtree's Company was raised to protect the Fox Islands, as North Haven and Vinalhaven were then called, and was on duty from September 5 to December 5, 1779.

Not many instances of British and Tory aggression on these Islands are preserved. One occurrence of this kind comes down to us, and that is the case of John Perry, who lived on the South Island (Vinalhaven) and suffered from British foragers from Castine.

One day a party of these foragers landed at his place and were helping themselves to his corn, thinking probably that one man alone would not

dare resent their actions (it is said there were fifteen of them), but Perry secured his guns and selecting a favorable spot shot two of the party and then fled into the woods. The rest of the party pursued him, but he evaded them by hiding in a hollow tree. He remained in this hiding place about forty-eight hours, and when it appeared that his enemies had departed, he hurried to the shore, sprang into his dugout and paddled to Owl's Head. From there he went to Boston.

Perry returned to Vinalhaven shortly afterward. When the British learned of his return, strenuous efforts were made to capture him, but without success. Several times he came near falling into the hands of the enemy, but always managed to escape. Once, while picking up birds that he had shot in the vicinity of Crockett's River, he was ordered to come ashore by a party of the British who happened to be there. He answered that he would, as soon as the birds he had slain were gathered. His would-be captors stood carelessly watching him, a fact which he probably noticed, and while pretending to be getting ready to go ashore he suddenly and with all his strength paddled in the opposite direction.

A shower of bullets followed him, but he escaped unharmed. After the summary vengeance he had inflicted on the British, he could expect no mercy, hence, having had his house on Vinalhaven consumed by fire and finding his life in constant jeopardy, John Perry removed to the main and dwelt in a small house built by Caleb Barrows at Blackington's Corner, now Rockland, on the farm and near the dwelling of Otis Barrows. Here his enemies found him out, and approaching the house, demanded of his family the surrender of his person. Being told he was not at home, and being denied all knowledge of his whereabouts, and suspecting that he was concealed within the house, the soldiers forbade the removal of a single article by the inmates, the house was fired and with all its contents reduced to ashes. Mr. Perry returned to Vinalhaven after the war, but several members of his family afterward became active and valued residents of Rockland.

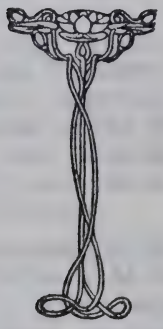
Capt. Eleazer Crabtree while in the service was obliged to remove his family from North Haven. The British took possession of his property and he was without habitation or means of support of his family. He asked the General Court to place him in possession of the farm of Ichabod Jones, a Tory, at Western. Jones owed him five hundred pounds which was the means of support he then possessed.

The demoralizing state of things on the Penobscot was soon to receive a check. The glorious triumph of the American Arms at Yorktown, in

the capture of the entire British Army under Lord Cornwallis, cheered the heart of every patriot and was celebrated by a national Thanksgiving on December 13.

Though hostilities did not cease for more than a year, this may be considered the closing act of the Revolution, and all marauding on the Penobscot stopped, much to the relief of the harassed inhabitants.

[The End]



In The Revolutionary War

These Were the Coast Guard Companies Containing Knox County Men

FOREWORD

In the preceding articles on "British and Tory Marauders on the Penobscot," references are frequent to the companies of American volunteers, who guarded the exposed places on the Penobscot River and Bay. Many of the men composing these companies have descendants who take pride in their ancestors' military service in the Revolution.

Through the courtesy of Mr. E. L. Vinal of Boston, formerly of Vinalhaven, Maine, who has kindly volunteered to copy the muster and pay rolls of these Revolutionary coast guard companies, now on file in the archives in the State House in Boston, I am able to reproduce them here, and do so without changing the quaint spelling of many familiar names, which are copied just as they appear on the original rolls.

These rolls have never before been published in full, and are a noteworthy addition to the history of the Penobscot region during the Revolutionary period. I trust they will find favor with the numerous readers of The Courier-Gazette, who have been entertained and instructed by the historical sketches, and many of whom have been so kind to me personally in their expressions of appreciation.

Edward K. Gould

Field and Line Officers of the 4th Lincoln County Regiment of Massachusetts Militia, 1776.

Mason Wheaton,	Colonel
William Farnsworth,	Lieut. Colonel
James Minot,	Major

FIRST COMPANY

Jonathan Spear,	Captain
John Mathews,	1st Lieut.
Hugh Kelsey,	2nd Lieut.

SECOND COMPANY

Thomas Starrett,	Captain
Hatevil Libby,	1st Lieut.
Alexander Kelloch,	2nd Lieut.

THIRD COMPANY

Andrew Shanks,	Captain
George Dartworth,	1st Lieut.
Zebulen Simons,	2nd Lieut.

FOURTH COMPANY

Christopher Minot,	Captain
Barrack Buckling,	1st Lieut.
David Nutt,	2nd Lieut.

FIFTH COMPANY

George Young,	Captain
Benj. Burton,	1st Lieut.
Simeon Hillier,	2nd Lieut.

SIXTH COMPANY

Cornelius Bradford,	Captain
John Davis,	1st Lieut.
Robert Jameson,	2nd Lieut.

SEVENTH COMPANY

Wm. Pendleton,	Captain
Shubael Williams,	1st Lieut.
George Miner,	2nd Lieut.

EIGHTH COMPANY

Jacob Ludwig,	Captain
Jacob Winchenbach,	1st Lieut.
Daniel Kilhoun,	2nd Lieut.

The Company officers were commissioned July 3, 1776.

ST. GEORGES' DEFENSE

Captain Samuel Gregg's Company of Minutemen was raised in 1775 for the defense of the places along the St. Georges River and Wessaweskeag, as South Thomaston was then called, and enforcing the regulations respecting coasters. In consequence of the British Captain Mowatt's conduct at Falmouth (Portland) Townsend, (Boothbay) and Fort Pownell, in taking away cannon and ammunition, seizing and killing cattle, and committing other acts of arbitrary power, a part of these minutemen were called into actual service, and Capt. Gregg with 20 of his men well armed made a visit up the Penobscot to Fort Pownell, at the mouth of the river, April 27, 1775, to enquire of the Commander, Thomas Goldthwait, the reason of his delivering up the cannon to the British, and also to request a supply of arms and ammunition for the defense of the settlers in what is now Knox County. These were obtained to the amount of seven muskets, ten pounds of powder, and twenty-four pounds of ball, for which a receipt was given by Capt. Gregg, Robert McIntyre and Benjamin Burton as a committee from Upper and Lower St. Georges. But as Goldthwait afterwards complained, apparently with justice, that these places were better supplied than he was, it is probable these stores were taken as a precaution against the suspected treachery of that officer and the improper use he might make of them (Eaton's Thomaston, Rockland and South Thomaston).

The Committee of Safety assigned a part of Captain Gregg's men as guards in different places, of which two were at George Young's and five at Haunse Robinson's in what was afterwards Cushing, two at S. Creighton's, in what is now Warren, two at William Watson's, and a party at Wessaweskeag, which on the 10th of September was ordered to be stationed at Tenant's Harbor, in what is now St. George, to double the guard there. These men were probably employed mostly in the enforcement of regulations respecting coasters.

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Samuel Gregg's Company, Col. James Cargill's Regiment, stationed at St. Georges, Waldoborough and Camden, for defence of seacoast, Aug. 25 to Dec. 31, 1775.

Samuel Gregg,	Capt.
Haunce Robinson,	2nd Lieut.
John Kellock,	Sergt.
David Cargill,	"
John Robbinson,	"
David Watson,	"
James Thompson,	Corp.
James Campbell,	"
Philip Reasor,	"
John Skinner,	"
— Farnsworth,	Fifer

PRIVATES

Thomas Gray,	Richard Raley
Robert Cochran,	James Watson
Samuel Simson,	Edward Grant
Joseph Jackson	Alexander Young
John Cunningham	James Raley
James Canaday	James Cox
John Cargill	Robert Robinson
Francis Young	Ephm. Wiley
Matthew Kellock	Robert Wendenson
David Brown	John Leary
John Filer	John Kelloch
John Gordon	John Bigmore
Charles Adensperger	Samuel Swatland
David Kelloch	John Ballard
Jacob Robinson	Alexander Jemison
Ichabod Barrows	James Morton
William Lamson	William Brison
Caleb Barrows	William Thompson
Samuel Boys	David Robins
Benjamin Gurdin	Lemuel Tear
Richard Webber	Peter Black
Paul Thordick	George Wolmore
Robert Griffin	Peter Lear
Thomas Thatcher	William Farnsworth
Isaac Washburn	Matthew Watson

Muster roll of a company under command of Captain Benjamin Plummer, stationed at St. Georges for the defence of the seacoast March 5 to Sept. 6, 1776.

Benjamin Plummer,	Capt.
Joseph Robinson,	1st Lieut.
James Thompson,	2nd Lieut
John Robinson,	Sergt.
Nat'l Rolings,	"
Wm. Farnsworth,	"
Mich'l Ryan,	Corp.
Isaac Washburn,	"
Eph'm Dillins,	"
Isaac Farnsworth,	Fifer
Isaiah Cole,	Drums
John Young,	"

PRIVATES

Abel Cole
Andrew Robinson
Benj. Blackston
Benj. Winslow
Benj. Welthren
Benj. Wotten
Benj. Gorden
Eleazer Gay
Charles Jameson
David Nutt
Eliphat Rolings
Ezra Pitcher
George Ulmer
Joseph Hussey
Joseph Robinson, Jr.
Jacob Robinson
James Cox
James Clark
Joseph Davis
John Breasure
John Gordon
John Grace
Lemuel Thayer-Thain
Reuben Robinson
Robert Robinson
Richard Webber
Nat'l. Rawlings Jr.
Nat'l. Pitcher
Wm. Robinson
Wm. Read
Wm. Mott
Wm. Simmonton
Wm. Davis
James Morton
Peter Hilt
Peter Ott
Benj. Winslow
John Ballard
John Rawlings
James Sweetland
Andrew Wells
——— Bust
Joseph Hussey
John Reed
James Hall
Thomas Baston
Wm. Burton

Capt. Eleazer Crabtree's Company raised for the defence and protection of the Fox Islands and places adjacent from the first day of September, 1779. Service from September 5 to December 5, 1779.

Eleazer Crabtree,	Capt.
David Jenks,	Sergt.
John Gidding,	Corp.

PRIVATES

Joseph Wooster	William Cooper
Wilder Perry	John Calderwood
William Robbins	Thomas Cooper
James Crockett	Ephraim Haynes

Troops under the command of Lieut. Jeremiah Colburn, in Brig. Gen. Wadsworth's department, detached at Camden.

Jeremiah Colburn,	Lieut.
Mowres Clark,	Sergt.
Wm. Bourges,	"
Alex Jameson,	"
Wm. Colburn,	Corp.
Saml. Bouges,	"
Jeremiah Colburn, Jr.,	Fifer

PRIVATES

Josiah Alden	Samuel Kilpatrick
John Clark	Ebenezer Burd
Timothy Bachen	Alex Crawford
Isaac Irish	Sam'l. Pearson
Jason Whitney	Steven Partridge
John Marsh	Jona Lamson, Jr.
Ephraim Stemson	Benj. Gorden
Richard Stimson	Peter Oat
Daniel Black	Comfort Barrows
Daniel Hickey	Joseph Copeland
John Montgomery	Robert Montgomery
Wm. Porterfield	Philip Secres
Jona Lamson	Lemuel Counce
James Jones	Nathaniel Copeland

Captain Isaac Washburn's Company of Guards, Massachusetts Militia, stationed at Thomaston, service from March 11 to April 11, 1781.

Isaac Washburn,	Capt.
Morris Clark,	Lieut.
Daniel Morse,	Sergt.

PRIVATES

Oliver Robbins	Nath'l. Woodcock
Otis Robbins	Elip. Healey
Samuel Brown	Jonathan Smith
James Brown	John Blackinton
James Wood	Samuel Fales
John Simonton	David Fales
John Delaway	Thomas McLellan

Captain Jacob Ludwig's Company was raised on the St. Georges River and Broad Bay (Waldoboro). It went in November to Machias and did garrison duty there through the winter of 1777, from Oct. 7 to Dec. 22.

Jacob Ludwig,	Capt.
William Farnsworth,	1st Lieut.
Jacob Winchenbach,	2nd Lieut.
Jonathan Nevers,	Ensign
Caleb Howard,	Serg.
Gotfry Bornhimer,	"
Peter Hill,	Corp.
Andrew Knowlton,	"

PRIVATES

William Miller	Michael Andrew
Gotfry Hofses	Francis Young
Henry Oberlock	Ebenezer Jamison
Valintine Mink	Charles Jamison
John Werner	Ebenezer Davis
John Winchenbach	John Hofman
Henry Fortin	John Brazur
Andrew Malcom	Loring Cushing
Isair Sarges	Joshua Smith

Jacob Ludwig's Company detached from Colonel Mason Wheaton's Regiment for coast defence, Sept. 21 to Nov. 1, 1779.

Jacob Ludwig,	Capt.
Jacob Winchenbach,	Lieut.
Gotfry Bornhiemer,	Serg.

PRIVATES

George Hofses	Martin Hiseler
Charles Oberlock	Christian Hofses
Christopher Walch	John Werner
Conrad Hier	Solim Mink
Henry Miller	Henry Walch
Charles Kaler	Christian Smith
Peter Walch	Jonathan Stover
Philip Mink	Joseph Ludwig
Mathias Heabner	Paul Mink

Captain Benjamin Lemont's Company, Colonel John Allen's Regiment raised for the defence of Machias, Oct. 1, 1777.

Benjamin Lemont	Capt.
John Ballard,	1st Lieut.
Robart Lemont,	2d Lieut.
Thomas Buttler,	Ensign
Oliver Smith,	Sergt.
Samuel Lemont,	"
Isaac Collier,	"
Elisha Shaw,	"
Ebenezer Woodard,	Corp.
Moses Williams,	"
Joseph Gray,	"
Nathaniel Fails,	"
William Brown,	Fifer
William Cinnel,	Drums

PRIVATES

John Mickels,	Atwood Falls
Joseph Woodard	Pall Shorncick
William Gatthell	James Simonton
Stephen Ridout	John Gross
Nathaniel Ham	Luce Ogear
Benjamin Gatthell	Peter Ogear
William Douttey	Phineas Thompson
Nathaniel Bassel	Abraham Ogear
Jonathan Williams	Peter Oat
Nathaniel Gatthell	John Hilt
Humphrey Purinton	Bristo Ballard
Stephen Hinckley	William McKlelan
Samuel Fails	Tobias Hill

Captain Thomas Starret's Company detached from Colonel Mason Wheaton's Regiment and stationed at Glen Cove, Rockport, June 25 to July 5, 1779.

Thomas Starrett,	Capt.
Zebedee Simons,	1st Lieut.
Hugh Kilsey,	2d Lieut.
George Shanks,	Sergt.
William Robinson,	"
Jacob Ward,	"
Seth Vose,	"
Stephen Peabody,	Corp.
Samuel Counce,	"
Andrew Starrs,	"
Henry Barrett,	"

PRIVATES

John Fitzjrel
Lemuel Sisatlon
Paul Mink
Silvester Prince
John Varner
Henry Miller
Francis Vinal
Henry Ewell
Valentine Mink
Henry Overlock
Andrew Gendner
John Wingenbac
George Hofses
Levi Russel
Elijah Bradford
Charles Filer
Paul Mink
William Larmond
Daniel Rockas
James Craford
Archabald Anderson
William Myntyer
John Spear
John Hendley
Elibius Libby
John Libby
Matthew Watson
James Watson
Micke Packard
Jonathan Nutting
Jacob Hilor
Andrew Malcom
Joseph Robinson
John Stadely
Moses Haws
Daniel Mors
Oliver Robbins
Daniel Roces
John Miller
David Watson
Jeramiah Tolman

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